



Mary C. Rich Clubhouse
347 Stillwater Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902
Tel: (203) 324-0594
Fax: (203) 324-2330

Yerwood Center
90 Fairfield Avenue
Stamford, CT
06902
Tel: (203) 323-3547

April 13, 2021

Dear Monica,

My name is Rowena Track and I am the CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford, and a Stamford resident. On behalf of our 1300+ members, I want to thank you for your service to the City of Stamford, and for your ongoing support of the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford.

I will be speaking at the public hearing on Wednesday April 14 about our budget request for FY21-22. Below please find some background to help you better understand our ask.

The Club serves the most vulnerable, the most deserving and the most underserved youth of Stamford at our 2 locations: 90 Fairfield Ave (the Yerwood Center), and at 347 Stillwater Ave (The Mary Rich Club + The Teen Center). All 22 schools in Stamford drop off kids at either location of the Club. We provide a safe and enriching after school environment for those youth who have no other option.

97% of Club members identify as Black, Indigenous or other Person of Color.

93% of Club members come from households that are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

55% of our youth live in single parent households.

I will be presenting two line items:

- a. **\$215,000 for Yerwood Center, (01460568897, p191).** This is to serve families with youth K-3. This facility provides childcare, afterschool enrichment, and tutoring to help close the academic gap. It is also used for food distribution, Covid-19 testing, and is currently used for vaccination.
- b. **\$135,000 for Mary Rich Clubhouse & Teen Center, (01460568939, p191).** Our main facility located on Stillwater Avenue serves youth grades 4-12 afterschool, evenings, and weekends. More than just a safe, accessible place to go, we offer homework help, tutoring, college and career readiness, and programming in the arts, athletics, leadership, social and emotional wellbeing, and more. This is a place for teenagers who have no other place to go after school.

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The Boys & Girls Club of Stamford provides essential services for the community that must be funded and supported. If funding is not available, we will be forced to shut down many of these programs. The global pandemic has created a serious financial challenge for the Club. We have seen reduced contributions from individuals and corporations and are especially challenged as we are unable to run our in-person events.

With the full support of the City of Stamford, we strive to close the academic, achievement, food insecurity, and opportunity gap for so many deserving and underserved youth of Stamford. Absent these funds, we might need to close some of our programs, part of the facility will not be utilized, and we will be unable to serve as many youth as needed.

I became the CEO of the Club on March 23, 2020, first day of shelter in place in CT, and every day I feel privileged, proud and grateful to have the opportunity to making a big difference in the lives of so many deserving youth of Stamford.

I can be reached at, M: 646-544-9032. Please feel free to call me with questions.

Warmly,

Rowena Track

Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Club of Stamford

Cc: Andy Zeitlin, Board President, Boys & Girls Club of Stamford
Sam Gordon, Director of Development, Boys & Girls Club of Stamford